



FORESTLAND STEWARD



WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

SPRING 1997

State Fire Plan tackles complex issues

“There is an assumption that wildfires are ‘acts of God’ and not manageable by man. However, this assumption is not true. As reflected in this fire plan framework, future wildfires are predicted and their losses...can be managed before the fire occurs.”

–California Fire Plan: A Framework for Minimizing Costs and Losses from Wildland Fires

Fire is a dominant force in California wildlands and of major concern to those who live in, use, or care about those areas. The **California Fire Plan** is the policy document for guiding CDF wildfire programs to meet the challenge of increased damage and cost of fire protection due to major fires.

The new plan recognizes that fire is a part of the California ecology. Fire suppression since European settlement has resulted in larger fires of greater intensity and correspondingly greater losses and costs. Increased human habitation and recreation in these areas has elevated the risk and number of wildland fires. In addition, fiscal constraints require a close look at how the problem of fire management can be addressed.

The Fire Plan takes a new approach

by attempting to quantify the problem, looking at risk levels, value, and costs. The assumption is that wildfires are predictable and that it is possible to manage their losses before a fire occurs.

The first step is to identify those high-risk, high-quality areas which will have the highest priority for management actions. That is being done using GIS (Geographical Information System) mapping techniques to look at assets individually and in combination with other related parameters such as fire history and weather.

Each of the following assets are being valued and mapped: air quality, range, recreation, structures, timber, water and watersheds, cultural and historic resources, unique scenic areas, and wildlife, plants and ecosystem health. (Human life and unique scenic areas were determined to be unmeasurable and therefore excluded from this analysis.)

Involvement of stakeholders, those concerned about specific assets, is an important component of the plan. Stakeholders will be asked to evaluate the maps and to invest in prefire management projects.

Activities to decrease the risk of large, intense conflagrations will be



“Over time, all California’s wildlands will burn.” –Fire Plan

based not only on priority, but also on stakeholders’ willingness to participate and share in project costs.

For more details, get your own copy of the California Fire Plan from FRAP Publications, CDF, 1920 20th Street, Sacramento, 95814. The plan can also be read or downloaded at <http://spp-www.cdf.ca.gov/htdocs/cdf/text/fireplan/index.html>.

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P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

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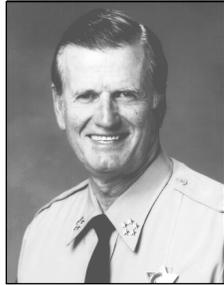
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From the Director

Fire Plan overview

We're proud to announce the release of the **California Fire Plan**, which will guide CDF fire policy over the next 10 years. The goal of the plan is to reduce total wildfire costs and losses through the following:

- **Wildfire protection zones.** Development of wildfire safety zones to reduce citizen and firefighter risks from future large wildfires.
- **Initial attack success.** Provides a measure of the level of service and helps define the risk of wildfire damage.
- **Assets protected.** A way to define the assets protected and their degree of risk. Those assets defined include citizen and firefighter safety, watersheds and water, timber, wildlife and habitat (including rare and endangered



Richard A. Wilson
Director, CDF

species), unique areas (scenic, cultural, and historic), recreation, range, structures, air quality.

- **Prefire management.** Support for projects that reduce the risk of unacceptable fire damage including a combination of fuels reduction, ignition management, fire-safe engineering, and forest

health projects.

- **Fiscal framework.** Monitoring of the entire system of prefire management and suppression forces at all levels to maximize the efficiency of firefighting resources.

We're confident that the framework provided by this document will accomplish the goals of reducing total costs and losses from wildfire in California.

Whose Watershed Is It?

Professionals and landowners alike will benefit from the upcoming **California Watershed Management Symposium** to be held at the Sacramento Hilton on April 23-25.

"Whose Watershed Is It? The Management Challenge" is the focus of the program which is sponsored by five professional societies: The Wildlife Society, Watershed Management Council, Society for Range Management, Society of American Foresters, and American Fisheries Society.

This will be an opportunity for natural resource managers from various disciplines to communicate with one another, sharing their perspectives and needs. The goal is to facilitate a greater interdisciplinary management of watersheds.

The program will emphasize the

scientific approach to problem-solving with speakers, panels, posters, and exhibits. A bit of political commentary will be added by the Thursday lunch speaker, Russell Sadler.

Registration fees before March 24 are \$125 for members of the five sponsoring societies, \$150 for nonmembers, and \$75 for students. After March 24 these fees go up to \$155, \$180, and \$85 respectively. Hotel reservations must be made by April 9 (identify yourself as a Watershed Management Symposium Conference participant). Continuing education credits are also available.

For more information or a conference brochure, call Wendy Wickizer at 1-800-738-TREE or go to the Watershed Management Council web site at <http://watershed.org>.

Leave a legacy for future generations

The California Forest Legacy Program allows landowners to voluntarily protect their forestland from development and other related threats. Landowners who participate in the program may either donate conservation easements or have them purchased at fair market value. This protects the landbase and specific values identified by the landowner. It can also provide income and estate tax benefits.

The Forest Legacy Program is looking for donations of conservation easements from landowners in the following counties: Mendocino, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and San Diego. For information or a copy of the Request for Proposals, contact Jim Geiger at (916) 653-8286.

FORESTLAND STEWARD

Forestland Steward is a publication of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
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Cost-Share & Assistance Programs

Government assistance for forest landowners is in a state of transition as cutbacks and changing priorities affect the available funding. Some of the programs below are decreasing, others increasing, while new programs are on the way. An important trend is support for multi-ownership projects instead of for individuals. Individual landowners are more likely to get assistance when they are part of a community plan. For more information on any of the programs below, contact the Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE.

Forest Management

Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP)
Experts work with landowners to develop management plans.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)
Permanent conservation easements from willing landowners in Mendocino, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, San Mateo and San Diego Counties.

Forest Incentives Program (FIP)
Cost share/technical assistance.

Forest Management Assistance Program
Technical assistance to Georgia-Pacific Corp. neighbors.

Wildlife Management

Private Lands Habitat Enhancement and Management Program (PLM)
Planning, technical assistance.

Deer Herd Management Plan Implementation Program
Consultation, coordination to restore/improve deer habitat.

Adopt-A-Lake Program
Technical assistance for habitat restoration and education.

Fisheries Restoration Grant Program
Fish habitat improvement.

Departmental Irrigation Drainage Program
Solutions to preserve fish & wildlife.

Fish & Wildlife Management Assistance
Technical assistance.

Rural Community Economic Development

Rural Community Assistance Program/SCERT Process
Helps eligible communities with planning.

Economic Recovery/Rural Development
Provides planning, technical and financial assistance to eligible communities.

Resource Conservation & Development
Planning, coordination, grants.

Community Facilities Loans
Loans to improve community facilities providing essential services.

Limited Resource Farm Loans
Low interest loans for low income farmers and ranchers.

Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants

Youth Project Loans

Habitat Restoration and Land Conservation

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Funding for significant water, soil, and related natural resource problems.

Emergency Conservation Program
Funding and technical assistance for emergency restoration.

Watershed Projects
Planning assistance.

Plant Materials for Conservation
Technical assistance.

Land Exchange Program

Fire /Fuel Hazard Reduction

Vegetation Management Program
Liability coverage, planning & prescribed burns on private land.

SP-58 Wildland Fuel Break
Cost shares available to eligible landowners in Madera and El Dorado Co.

Fire Safe
Field guide; video.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Cost share to reduce risk from future disasters.

Watershed/Wetland Protection and Restoration

River Basin Studies and Investigation-River Basin Planning
Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting

Wetlands Reserve Program
Easements, cost share for wetland improvement.

Klamath Basin Ecosystem Restoration

Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment

Ecosystem Restoration

Americorps Watershed Stewards Project
Technical assistance, cost share for watershed restoration.

Land Management Information

Soil Survey

Federal State Cooperative Program
National Water Resources Research Program

Water Resources Scientific Info Center

Natural Resources in Non-Wildland Areas

Integrated Crop Management Program
Cost sharing to reduce pesticides or nutrients.

Community Alliance with Family Farmers/BIOS

Lighthouse Farm Campaign

Urban Community Forester

Urban Forestry Grant Program (UFGP)
Purchase trees and educational material.

This highly abbreviated listing comes from the comprehensive booklet, *Cost Share & Assistance Programs*, available from Extension Forestry, 163 Mulford Hall, University of California, Berkeley 94720. (510) 642-2360



Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit working out the bugs in the Fire Plan

The California Fire Plan is an impressive document but how does it translate into on-the-ground projects that will reduce fire costs and damage? And how does it affect private landowners?

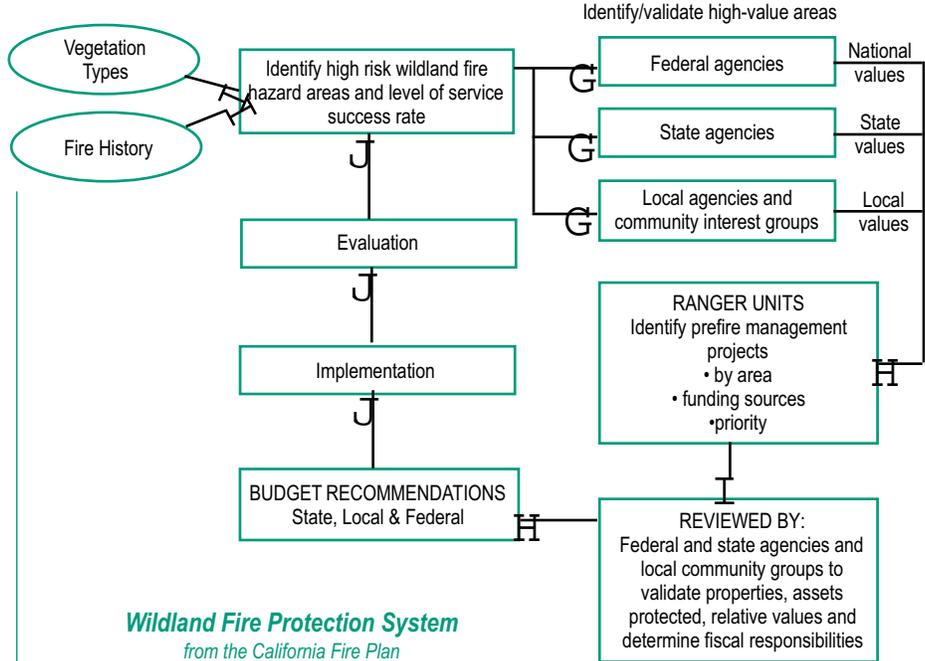
The Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NYP) Ranger Unit is in the process of figuring it all out.

The NYP Ranger Unit is the first to implement the fire plan strategy, with Tuolumne-Calaveras and Riverside units close behind. These three ranger units will work out the bugs in the plan—find out what works and what doesn't—so that the other ranger units in California will have an easy time when they go on line in three years.

Although each ranger unit will follow the same format, results are expected to differ since each area has its own needs and priorities.

Garrett McInnis, Fire Captain with the NYP Ranger Unit, has been working on the project since it began in January 1996. He described the process, adding, "There's been a lot of trial and error. It took us longer because we're the first."

They began by figuring out the computer mapping programs. Next, data had to be gathered: vegetation coverage; 15 different assets including air quality, industry, structures, etc.; level of service success rate; fire history and weather. These data were com-



Wildland Fire Protection System
from the California Fire Plan

bined to identify those areas that are both high value and high risk.

Now that the preliminary work is complete, NYP staff are ready to meet with stakeholders. The first meetings will be with identified interest groups to get their input and concerns. These include the timber industry, air and water agencies, and others. Part of the strategy is to determine what assets are being protected, who will benefit from projects in those areas, and what percent of cost sharing can be expected.

The next step is three public

hearings to show the results of the mapping and gather more input from citizens. After the meetings, projects will be undertaken, prioritized by the ranger unit with stakeholder input. Those communities with active projects underway may benefit from this approach if their projects tie in with the goals of the ranger unit.

Cooperation between the many stakeholders and agencies is expected to result in reduced fire damage and costs, protect the resources, and enhance watershed areas.

Steps to increase fire safety on wooded parcels

1. Create defensible space around buildings.
2. Recognize the impact of steep slopes on fire safety.
3. Identify and manage trees to be fire safe.
4. Set up a continuous management program to maintain a fire safe property environment.
5. Develop a fire safe landscape plan for your home or business.

Defensible space is that area which lies between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and which provides an opportunity for firefighters to safely defend a structure.



Prefire planning benefits landowners

Rich Gresham, manager of the Placer Resource Conservation District (RCD), speaks enthusiastically about defensible space and “healthy forests” (which he puts in quotes because it means so many different things to different people).

“We look at the midstory. How can we reduce the fuel load and at the same time maintain suitable habitat for wildlife and duff for erosion control?”

This balancing act requires a thoughtful analysis of the land as well as an ecosystem approach to problem solving. It is a challenge Rich and many others are ready and willing to take on in their ongoing efforts to help landowners maintain their land in a fire safe and healthy way.

The RCD is working with the Forest Service, local fire departments and fire districts, agencies, and interested individuals to spread the word. Wildlife biologists and other specialists add their expertise to make sure that forest health is maintained while fire-safe concerns are met.

Education is the key. Rich and



Neighbors meet over coffee to learn about fire prevention and forest health.

others are willing to speak to organized groups, go to schools, even come to coffee klatches organized by neighbors who have benefited from the fire prevention program.

Landowners can receive help in developing a conservation plan that looks at all the variables on their land and takes into account their future goals and desires for the property. Suggest-

ions are then made for accomplishing those goals in a way that maintains forest health.

There is a lot of technical assistance available and, yes, even a limited amount of money in cost share programs for landowners through NRCS, RCD and CDF.

Says Rich, “These programs are a landowners best friend.”

Seasonal Stewardship

...and smell the flowers

Keeping your land healthy and safe requires ongoing attention. Your needs will vary depending on your location. Observe your property to learn the seasonal indicators and get assistance when necessary. Call the Stewardship Helpline at 1-800-738-TREE for answers to any questions.

- As spring approaches, maintain adequate clearance for fire protection. A 30 foot clearance around structures is required but a greater defensible space may be desirable depending on the characteristics of the property.
- This is tree planting season. Contact

your CDF Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) for information. Call the Helpline for the FAS in your area.

- Establish a prefire plan with family members and elderly neighbors. Have a minimum of two escape routes and designate a meeting place outside the area.
- Check your fire insurance policy to see if it will pay for rebuilding your home in today’s economy.
- Get to know your neighbors, they are your best allies in an emergency. You may want to work together on cooperative fire prevention projects.

Develop your conservation plan

Everything is cool and moist at this time of year but it won’t stay that way. Get ready for the fire season by developing a conservation plan for your land.

It’s simple. Go to your local NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) and ask for help. They will look at the fuel load and defensible space concerns of your land and come up with suggestions to make your environment more fire safe and healthy.

There may be cost-share assistance available through NRCS, RCD, and CDF. Talk to them.



Resources

Tax tips for forest landowners

Remember these points when you file your 1996 Federal income taxes:

1. Decide if you are going to be an active or passive participant. Generally you will get a better tax advantage if you are active.
2. Keep good records! This includes receipts for business transactions, diaries, and landowner meeting agendas.
3. If you had reforestation (timber stand establishment) costs, be sure to consider the 10-percent reforestation tax credit/7-year amortization.

4. If you sold timber during 1996, you may be able to benefit from the long-term capital gains provisions because you do not have to pay self-employment tax on capital gains.

5. If you had cost-share assistance during 1996, you must report it to the IRS. You may choose to exclude some or all of it, if certain qualifications are met, but you still must report it.

6. If you participated in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), your annual payments must be reported as ordinary income. If you received CRP

cost-share assistance funds, you must report them as ordinary income.

7. Get help for forest management planning and for tax planning. Proper tax planning is just as important as the management techniques to grow a profitable timber crop. For help, contact a professional tax advisor, the Cooperative Extension Service, or your State forestry agency.

The complete article, *Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 1997 Tax Year*, is available from the Southern Region, USDA Forest Service, 1720 Peachtree Rd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367 or look on the internet at <http://www.uga.edu/~soforext/usdafsr8/spf/coopfor/taxtips.htm>.

Also, the 140-page *Agriculture Handbook 708—Forest Owners Guide to the Federal Income Tax* can be downloaded from <http://www.uga.edu/~soforext/> (The Electronic Forest Resources Library).

Technical Assistance Resources

Many agencies are available to provide technical assistance, referrals, information, education, land management plan assistance, and advice.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Forestry Assistance Program

Jim Geiger (916) 653-8286

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Thomas Wehri (916) 447-7237

California Resources Agency

California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)

Deanne DiPietro (916) 653-8614

Coastal Conservancy

Neal Fishman/Carol Arnold (510) 286-4181

Farm Service Agency

Larry Plumb (916) 498-5300

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jerry Reioux (916) 757-8256

..... (209) 946-6229

California Department of Fish and Game

Terry Mansfield (916) 653-1921

U.C. Cooperative Extension Forestry

John LeBlanc (510) 642-6678

USDA Forest Service

Sandra Stone (415) 705-2587

California Stewardship Helpline (800) 738-TREE

More web sites of interest

The **Coarsegold Resource Conservation District** has a web site with articles on the "Importance of Fuel Reduction" as well as the complete text of "Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Guidelines" and "Voluntary Water Quality, Grazing Land, Oak Woodland Conservation Management Guidelines." Check them out at: <http://www.sierranet.net/web/crsercd>

California CRMP site includes the CRMP Handbook, information about the Technical Advisory Council and more. <http://ceres.ca.gov/cacrmpp>

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has information on EQIP and other programs at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>



Calendar

March 19–20

Calif Biodiversity Council Meeting
Visalia, CA; 209/733-6363

March 20; 8:00 am

Understanding Groundwater Systems in Watersheds: A Key to Successful Stewardship; CSU Chico; 916/893-5243; e-mail <LnnB@aol.com>; \$40

March 20–22

Redwood Region Logging Conference
Eureka, CA; 707/443-4091

March 26–27; 1:00 pm

Board of Forestry Range Management Advisory Committee meeting
Sacramento; 916/653-8007

March 27–28

GIS for Resource Managers & Professionals; UC Davis Extension; \$285; 800/752-0881

April 1; 3:30 pm

Biomass Harvest Operations in Ecosystem Management—Speaker Tad Mason, Pacific Wood Fuels
103 Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley
Larry Ruth; <ergo@nature.berkeley.edu>

April 1; 3:30 pm

Voice of the Community: Conservation Strategies at Home—Connie Best, Anderson, Valley Land Trust
141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley
510/642-4874

April 3; 3:30 pm

The Role of Economic Development in Ecosystem Management—Bill Weeks, Center for Compatible Economic Dev't
141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley
510/642-4874

April 8; 3:30 pm

Reorientation of Non-Profits to Support Community-Based Conservation—Gloria Fauss, The Nature Conservancy; Reed Holderman, CA Coastal Conservancy
141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley
510/642-4874

April 9; 9:00 am

Annual Westside Ranchers Meeting

West Stanislaus RCD
Frank Azevedo 209/892-3026

April 10–11

Internet and the Web: Specialized Training for Environmental Professionals
Sacramento; UC Davis Extension; \$295
800/752-0881

April 10; 3:30 pm

Reorientation of Public Agencies to Support Community-Based Conservation—Harry Seraydarian, EPA
141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley
510/642-4874

April 15; 3:30 pm

Preserving Agricultural Lands
Speakers Bob Berner, Marin Ag. Land Trust; Erik Vink, American Farmland Trust; 141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley; 510/642-4874

April 15

Vernal Pools, Wetlands, and Aquatic Habitats; UC Davis; \$235; 916/757-8887

April 17; 3:30 pm

Timberland Conservation Strategies—Mary Ellen Boelhower, Soc. for Protec. of New Hampshire Forests; Laurie Wayburn, Pacific Forest Trust
141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley
510/642-4874

April 18–19

2nd Interface Between Ecology and Land Development in California
Los Angeles; Contact Dr. Jon E. Keeley, Dept. of Biology, Occidental College

April 22; 3:30 pm

Protecting Productive Rangelands and Rural Communities—Speaker Luther Propst, Sonoran Institute
141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley
510/642-4874

April 23–25

Whose Watershed Is It?: The Management Challenge (CA Watershed Symposium)
(see article page 2). Sacramento; Wendy Wickizer 800/738-8733

April 24; 3:30 pm

Conservation Challenges at the Urban Edge—Audrey Rust, Peninsula Open Space Trust; Hally Swan, Sonoma Cty Ag. Preservation & Open Space Dist.

141 Giannini Hall, UC Berkeley
510/642-4874

April 25

A Practical Primer on Wetlands and Endangered Species Laws & Regulations
UC Berkeley Extension; \$225
510/643-7143

April 29

Oak Woodlands and Serpentine Foothills
UC Davis; \$235; 916/757-8887

May 1; 9:00 am

Oak Regeneration Field Day
Sierra Foothill Res./Ext Ctr
UC Berkeley IHRMP; \$20
Doug McCreary 916/639-8807

May 8–10

Forest Landowners of California Annual Meeting; Sacramento, CA
Dan Weldon 916/972-0273

May 8–10

WWF Forests for Life Conference
San Francisco; \$125-180, 20% discount for students/non-profits; 202/861-8346

May 30

GIS Tools and Solutions: Can They Work for My Organization?
UC Berkeley Extension; \$235
510/643-7143

June 5–6 & 12–13

Communication Essentials for Environmental Managers
San Francisco; \$395; 510/643-7143

June 15–21

Forestry Institute for Teachers
UC Forestry Camp near Quincy; \$300 stipend paid to participating K–12 teachers. Please pass this information on to your child's teacher; 1-800/738-TREE

July 13–19

Forestry Institute for Teachers
Arcata; \$300 stipend paid to participating K–12 teachers. Pass this information on to your child's teacher; 1-800/738-TREE

For more information on these events, call the number given or the Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE. To receive the electronic version of this calendar, contact Hannah Kerner at "kerner@nature.berkeley.edu"



What's in a name?

Name change reflects recognition of Native stewardship

"The tree was despised by the white settlers. Their thinking apparently ran something like this: the Digger Indian, a contemptuous name by which the pioneers inaccurately lumped all California tribes together, used the tree as food. What is good for an Indian is beneath notice for a white man. Ergo, the tree merited about the same respect as the Indians, who were dispossessed, when not enslaved, beaten, or killed."

—Donald Culross Peattie, referring to *Pinus sabiniana* in his book, *A Natural History of Western Trees*, 1953.

It's not a movement or an official act, but slowly and surely a new awareness is spreading, resulting in the name change of one of our favorite pines.

Pinus sabiniana, until recently known as digger pine, was named after the "Digger" Indians. "Digger" was a derogatory term given to California Native peoples by European settlers, referring to the fact that they dug for roots, an important source of food, basketry materials, and other uses.

Now there is general recognition

that this early perception of Native Californian cultures was unfair, undeserved, and wrong. These were very intricate, sophisticated societies with a vast knowledge of their environment.

The veritable "Garden of Eden" that Europeans found in California was not an accident of geography but a highly managed ecosystem. Although considered pre-agricultural, the native peoples used sophisticated ecological techniques to enhance the environment, select for desired species, and maintain biological diversity. In fact, ecosystem diversity and health has deteriorated alarmingly since that time.

The most important environmental tool was fire. The Native Californians were masters of low-intensity burns. These burns had many benefits. They reduced the fuel load thus reducing the risk of intense fires that would damage important food species like oaks. Fire kept selected areas in an early state of succession, increasing foliage to attract and feed game. Pest species, especially insects, were kept in check. Certain



Some people think the Latin name, *Pinus sabiniana*, is adequate. Others prefer "gray pine" or "foothill pine."

plant species thrived under a fire regime. Fires produced a mosaic environment which provided more edges, or ecotones, favoring many types of wildlife.

The native peoples thrived in this environment of their own making, evolving rich, complex cultures with beautiful basketry and elaborate rituals. They were expert botanists, pharmacologists, physicists, and biologists. While there are many people working to save some of this vast knowledge, much is lost forever.

With this new understanding of native cultures, many people are rejecting language that perpetuates old ignorance. *Pinus sabiniana* obviously needs a new common name—but what?

Since this is a grassroots name change, there is no agreed upon replacement. Some people think the Latin name, *Pinus sabiniana*, is good enough since it is beautiful and easy to say. The closest to an official recommendation comes from the prestigious botanical reference *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*, which endorsed both **gray pine** and **foothill pine** as alternatives because "the common name digger pine is pejorative in origin, so best avoided."

Source: *Flutes of Fire* by Leanne Hinton, Heyday Books, Berkeley CA 1994. p. 165.

How can the *Forestland Steward* newsletter help you?

I'd like to see more information on _____

My suggestion is _____

Add me to the mailing list / change my address:

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Phone _____

Send to CDF, Forestry Assistance, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460.

Fax: (916) 653-8957; e-mail: jim_geiger@fire.ca.gov